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Public Hearing Testimony

RE: HB 5360: AN ACT CONCERNING CERTIFICATION OF CANDIDATES

Dear Senator Musto, Representative Jutila, and members of the Government Administration and Elections Committee,

My name is Mary Ann Dostaler. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

I am writing in opposition to HB 5360. The Statement of Purpose identifies the intent of the bill "to establish *parity* between major party candidates and minor party candidates regardless of whether they are a candidate for state or municipal office."

The bill as written does not address the inequity that exists in the current statute Section 9-452, which imposes a signature requirement on candidates of minor parties but not on candidates of major parties for municipal office. The proposed language does not require the signatures of major party candidates in municipal general elections; signatures are only required of major party candidates for municipal primaries and delegates to major party conventions.

Further, "parity" is not equity. State election laws should strive to provide equity in ballot access for candidates of all political parties.